



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

AEACG

8 January 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Bell Sends #11-05, SAFETY ALERT—Soldier Dies of Apparent Drug Overdose

1. The 5 January 2005 edition of the subject message is rescinded. Enclosed is a new edition.
2. The 5 January 2005 version of the subject message may have unintentionally given readers the impression that I have preconceived ideas regarding the proper disposition of allegations that a Soldier is using or abusing drugs. I don't. My intent in sending the message as written was twofold. First, I wanted to emphasize the negative effect that drugs can have—both on the Soldiers who use them, and on USAREUR's ability to perform its mission. Second, I wanted to emphasize the importance of getting Soldiers who have a drug problem into appropriate treatment programs. I did not intend to imply that all Soldiers accused of using or abusing drugs should be discharged from the Army; nor should my comments be interpreted as an expression of my command philosophy regarding the proper disposition of drug-use allegations.
3. Unless authority is properly withheld, each commander in a Soldier's chain of command must independently assess allegations that the Soldier is using drugs and make an independent determination regarding the proper disposition of those allegations based on all of the circumstances of the particular case.
4. The version of Bell Sends #11-05 that was issued on 5 January 2005 has been removed from the USAREUR homepage and replaced by the copy attached to this memorandum. I expect leaders to give this memorandum and its enclosed new version of Bell Sends #11-05 the widest possible distribution. As a minimum, this memorandum and its enclosure should be distributed electronically to everyone who received the 5 January 2005 copy of Bell Sends #11-05. In addition, the 8 January version of the message should be posted on unit bulletin boards in place of the 5 January version.

Encl

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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8 January 2005



SAFETY ALERT
Soldier Dies of
Apparent Drug Overdose

This Bell Sends supersedes Bell Sends #11-05, subject as above, 5 January 2005.

1. USAREUR recently lost another young Soldier due to apparent substance abuse. The Soldier was found sitting in a chair covered in his own vomit after he failed to appear for formation. This Soldier did not die while trying to save a buddy or fighting the Global War on Terrorism; he apparently died because he chose to use drugs.
2. Leaders: We have a problem. This is the second fatality in USAREUR this quarter due to apparent substance abuse. Tragedies such as these are unacceptable. We must do everything we can to prevent them from happening.
3. Soldiers:
 - With my *Under the Oak Tree* guidance, I directed your leaders, immediate supervisors, and fellow Soldiers to become involved in your lives in an effort to put an end to these senseless deaths. I expect our leaders to help you make mature decisions that will keep you alive. If this sounds like I want our leaders to “get involved in your business,” you're right.
 - It is my responsibility to ensure that each of you is trained and ready to serve our Nation—anytime, anywhere, with little or no advance warning. Soldiers who abuse drugs are not prepared for this challenge. A unit that loses a Soldier is no longer as capable and ready. Because of safety concerns, a Soldier with a drug problem is not someone we want driving our trucks, repairing our aircraft, or protecting our flanks in combat. If you have a drug problem, get help. If your buddy has a drug problem, ensure that he or she gets help. The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) has a variety of professional treatment options, counseling, and prevention resources available in every community. Your local medical treatment facility, chaplain, or chain of command can help you obtain assistance through ASAP.
 - Never forget that Soldiers are the Army's most valuable asset. Each of you has volunteered to be a highly skilled warrior. The talents you bring to the battlefield are far more important than the most powerful tank or aircraft our Army has. The Army needs every one of you to be ready to meet the challenges in the Global War on Terrorism.
4. Leaders: Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. *No Loss of Life* is our goal. I need every Soldier trained, ready, and fit to continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!

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